

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TC

SUBJECT: SERIOUS POTENTIAL TRADE DISPUTE IN ABU DHABI

REFERENCES: (A) ABU DHABI 2537, (B) ABU DHABI 2553, 2600

1. ARP FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING FOWLER AND CALHOUN. BOTH BLAME THEIR PRESENT TROUBLES IN ABU DHABI ON HUNTER'S UNEXPECTED EXIT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. BOTH AGREE THAT ONLY CALHOUN'S PRESENCE IN ABU DHABI WOULD BE ABLE TO SAVE THE PRESENT SITUATION. HOWEVER, CALHOUN IS UNWILLING TO RETURN TO ABU DHABI UNTIL HIS TAX CASE IN THE UNITED STATES IS RESOLVED.

2. CALHOUN SAYS HE IS FACING CHARGES FOR NOT HAVING FILED INCOME TAX RETURNS IN 1969-1970. CALHOUN MAINTAINS HE HAD NO TAX LIABILITY THESE YEARS, BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED BY THE PROSECUTOR IN THE CASE WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLEGE LIABILITY. HE CLAIMS THE CASE HAS BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR FOUR YEARS. ACCORDING TO CALHOUN, WHEN AN
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INDICTMENT FINALLY APPEARED AGAINST HIM, AND EFFORTS WERE

MADE TO FORCE HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, HE TRIED TO GAIN A STAY LONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW HIM TO COMPLETE HIS PROJECT IN ABU DHABI BUT FAILED.

3. CALHOUN SAYS IT IS NOW HIS INTENT TO REMAIN IN THE STATES UNTIL HIS TAX CASE IS RESOLVED. THERE IS A PRE-TRIAL HEARING SET FOR 12 OCTOBER. TRIAL, IF NECESSARY, WILL FOLLOW A SHORT TIME LATER. CALHOUN SAYS THAT TO BE RID OF THE MATTER, HE IS PREPARED TO BARGAIN FOR A PLEA OF GUILTY AND PAYMENT OF A NOMINAL FINE. HOWEVER, IF HE FACES JAIL, CALHOUN SAYS HE WILL FIGHT THE CASE AS LONG AS NECESSARY.

4. CALHOUN TOLD US A SALAH FARID MOHSIN FROM THE UAE IS IN THE UNITED STATES TO DISCUSS THE AL AIN PROJECT. APPARENTLY MOHSIN WAS WORKING WITH CALHOUN IN SOME WAY ON THE PROJECT AND NOW IS HERE TO SEE WHAT CAN BE SALVAGED. CALHOUN SAID HE MIGHT ASK MOHSIN AND FOWLER TO RETURN TO ABU DHABI FOR 2 OCTOBER MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUT FINAL DECISION ON THIS POINT WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH MOHSIN.

5. IN SUMMARY, CALHOUN CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN HIS INTENTION TO RETURN TO ABU DHABI IN ORDER TO COMPLETE HIS CONTRACTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN IN TIME FOR 2 OCTOBER MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. WHILE HE IS MULLING OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING FOWLER AND MOHSIN BACK TO THE EMIRATES TO ACT ON HIS BEHALF, HE HAS REACHED NO FINAL DECISION. CALHOUN HIMSELF INTENDS TO REMAIN IN THE US UNTIL HIS TAX CASE IS RESOLVED. IF RESOLUTION IS FAVORABLE TO HIM, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO ABU DHABI. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF HIS CASE, HE MIGHT ALSO BE FACING A JAIL TERM IN THE STATES, WHICH WOULD MAKE HIS RETURN IMPOSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT IS NOT SANGUINE CALHOUN EVER WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO ABU DHABI. WE COMMEND EMBASSY ABU DHABI FOR ITS EFFORTS TO AVOID AN UNFORTUNATE TRADE DISPUTE, BUT FEEL THAT FURTHER INVOLVEMENT ON BEHALF OF PEAVEY/TOWNSON, CALHOUN, FOWLER ET AL IS FRUITLESS AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY MAY DRAW AT ITS DISCRETION ON THE ABOVE IN ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS WITH UAEG. ROBINSON

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